

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claims 58-60 and 68-99 are pending in this application. Claims 58, 81, 92-94, and 97 have been amended. Claims 59, 60, 69-72, 74-76, 82, 83, and 85-87 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to non-elected species in the absence of an allowed generic or linking claim. However, these withdrawn claims are believed to now be in condition for allowance, as they depend from generic claims now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 58, 68, 77, 79-81, 84, 88, and 90-99 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehouse (U.S. Pat. No. 3,138,073) in view of Fukano et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,585,226 / 6,029,903). The Office Action also rejected claims 58, 78, 81, and 89 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wall (U.S. Pat. No. 4,870,889) in view of Fukano et al., and further in view of Pettigrew et al. (2,716,395).

Applicants respectfully assert that amended claims 58, 81, 92-94, and 97 are patentable over the above cited references, because each of these claims recites features not disclosed or suggested in any of the above cited references. For example, claims 58, 81, 92-94, and 97, as amended, recite an adjustable mechanism that is configured to communicate pressurized fluid through the adjustable mechanism to move at least one piston. In Whitehouse, the breather passage 46 and portion 48 (identified in the Office Action as an actuator inlet) are not configured to communicate pressurized fluid through the adjustable mechanism to move a piston. Further, the loose fit of stem 14 in bore 40 and the loose thread connection at 42 (which is noted in the Office Action as inherently duplicating the function of the breather passage 46), would prevent fluid pressure from being maintained within the cylinder 10. Neither Fukano, Wall, nor Pettigrew disclose or suggest an adjustable mechanism through which pressurized fluid may be communicated. As such, claims 58, 81, 92-94, and 97 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Currently pending claims 68, 73, 77-80, 84, 88-91, 95, 96, 98, and 99 each depend from one of claims 58, 81, 94, and 97, and are also in condition for allowance. Withdrawn

claims 59, 60, 69-72, 74-76, 82, 83, and 85-87 all depend from either of generic claims 58 and 81, and are therefore also patentable over the cited references and in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that all currently pending claims and withdrawn claims depending from currently pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Any questions regarding this application can be addressed to the undersigned.

Respectively submitted,

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